THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Inter-linking of rivers

1648. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of inter-linking of rivers in the country has been put off;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government have spent huge amount in the past five years on the inter-linking of rivers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the views of other Ministries have been sought on this issue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) An expenditure of Rs. 109.44 crore was incurred by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) during the past five years (2004-05 to 2008-09) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs) / Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of river link proposals under National Perspective Plan, preparation of Pre-Feasibility Reports/FRs of Intra-State links proposed by the states and other studies in this regard. The Government has provided a budget outlay of Rs. 182.80 crore for above works by NWDA during XI Plan (2007-12). The Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance has concurred the above outlay.

Area irrigated by canals

1649. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has spent several crores on various irrigation projects across the country in the past one decade or so but not a single hectare has been added to the total area irrigated by canals;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the exact cause of failure to add a single hectares of land for irrigation purposes in the last several years;